

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An in-line filter provided with a transponder and a substantially elongated filter housing in which filtering material is included, the filter housing being provided on a first end with an inflow opening and on a second, opposite end with an outflow opening, while at the inflow opening and the outflow opening fastening means are provided for fastening a supply or discharge tube, respectively, wherein the fastening means are quick-change couplings, a respective quick-change coupling having a coupled condition and an uncoupled condition, while in the quick-change coupling a shut-off valve is provided which, in the coupled condition, assumes an open position and thus allows gas to pass and which, in an uncoupled condition, assumes a closed position and thus does not allow gas to pass.
2. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 1, wherein the shut-off valve of the quick-change coupling forms part of the part of the quick-change coupling that remains connected to the supply or discharge tube, respectively, such that in the uncoupled condition, the supply or discharge tube, respectively is hardly, if at all, polluted by air.
3. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 1, wherein each quick-change coupling comprises a male part and a female part through which a bore extends, which forms the fluid communication between the supply or discharge tube, respectively and the inflow opening or

outflow opening respectively, of the filter housing, while, with the male part and the female part in coupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the coupled condition and with the male part and the female part in uncoupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the uncoupled condition.

4. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 3, wherein the male parts of the two quick-change couplings are connected to the supply or discharge tube, respectively.

5. (Currently Amended) An in-line filter according to claim 3[[‡]], wherein the—a first female parts part, which forms the fluid communication between the supply tube and the inflow opening, and a second female part, which forms the fluid communication between the dispensing tube and the outflow opening, are connected to the two ends of the filter housing.

6. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 3, wherein in the bore in the male part a sieve is included.

7. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 3, wherein each male part is provided with a clamp fitting for connecting the male parts to the supply tube and the discharge tube, respectively.

8. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 3, wherein at each quick-change coupling, the shut-

off valve is included in the bore in the male part.

9. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 8, wherein the shut-off valve is biased in a closed position by a spring.

10. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 9, wherein the shut-off valve comprises a valve body and a valve stem, the valve body being arranged for cooperation with a valve seat in the bore of the male part, the valve stem being provided with a collar against which the spring rests with a first end, while another end of the spring rests against a supporting surface provided in the male part, as a constriction is provided in the bore, while, when the male part is placed in the female part, with an end facing away from the valve body, the valve stem meets a stop in the female part such that movement against the spring force of the spring is effected.

11. (Currently Amended) An in-line filter according to claim 33[[~~10~~]], wherein between the valve body and the valve seat a flexible sealing ring is provided.

12. (Currently Amended) An in-line filter according to claim 10, wherein the stop in the female part comprises a poly(tetrafluoroethylene) or poly(tetrafluoroethene) (PTFE) Teflon-cap which cap, when the male part is placed in the female part, is pierced by the free end of the valve stem provided to that end with a sharp point.

13. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according

to claim 3, wherein, with the aid of screw thread, the male part can be connected to the female part.

14. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 13, wherein screw thread on the male part is provided on a fastening ring rotatably connected to the male part of such that only the fastening ring needs to be turned for fastening the male part in the female part and that therefore the remaining parts of the male part need not be rotated.

15. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 3, wherein the connection between the female part and the filter housing is formed by a detachable connection.

16. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 15, wherein the connection is formed by a clamp joint, to which end the female part is provided with a body, a clamping plate which can be connected to the body with the aid of fastening bolts and with a flexible clamping ring with a diameter that fits the outer circumference of the filter housing.

17. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 1, wherein around the filter housing a protective shell is provided.

18. (Currently Amended) An in-line filter according to claim 17[[3]], wherein the protective shell is included between ~~the~~two female parts.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) An in-line filter according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the filter housing and the ~~optional~~ protective shell are at least partly transparent, for instance in that the filter housing is manufactured from glass and in that the protective shell is manufactured from acrylic plastic, while in the filter housing an indicator is included which discolors when the filtering material is saturated.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 1, wherein the transponder is provided with a temperature sensor, while the transponder is placed on the filter housing adjacent a downstream end of the filter housing.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 2, wherein each quick-change coupling comprises a male part and a female part through which a bore extends, which forms the fluid communication between the supply or discharge tube, respectively and the inflow opening or outflow opening respectively, of the filter housing, while, with the male part and the female part in coupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the coupled condition and with the male part and the female part in uncoupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the uncoupled

condition.

25. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 24, wherein the female parts are connected to the two ends of the filter housing.

26. (Currently Amended) An in-line filter according to claim 11, wherein the stop in the female part comprises a poly(tetrafluoroethylene) or poly(tetrafluoroethene) (PTFE) ~~Teflon~~-cap which cap, when the male part is placed in the female part, is pierced by the free end of the valve stem provided to that end with a sharp point.

27. (Previously Presented) An in-line filter according to claim 17, wherein the protective shell is included between the two female parts.

28. (New) The in-line filter according to claim 1, the filtering material being configured to remove water, oxygen and hydrocarbons from a gas flow, while the filtering material does not contain alkali metals or alkaline earth metals.

29. (New) An in-line filter provided with a substantially elongated filter housing in which filtering material is included, the filter housing being provided on a first end with an inflow opening and on a second, opposite end with an outflow opening, while at the inflow opening and the outflow opening fastening means are provided for fastening a supply or discharge tube, respectively, wherein the fastening means are quick-change couplings, a respective

quick-change coupling having a coupled condition and an uncoupled condition, while in the quick-change coupling a shut-off valve is provided which, in the coupled condition, assumes an open position and thus allows gas to pass and which, in an uncoupled condition, assumes a closed position and thus does not allow gas to pass,

wherein each quick-change coupling comprises a male part and a female part through which a bore extends, the bore in the male part including sieve, which forms the fluid communication between the supply or discharge tube, respectively and the inflow opening or outflow opening respectively, of the filter housing, while, with the male part and the female part in coupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the coupled condition and with the male part and the female part in uncoupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the uncoupled condition.

30. (New) The in-line filter according to claim 29, the filtering material being configured to remove water, oxygen and hydrocarbons from a gas flow, while the filtering material does not contain alkali metals or alkaline earth metals.

31. (New) An in-line filter provided with a substantially elongated filter housing in which filtering material is included, the filter housing being provided on a first end with an inflow opening and on a second, opposite end with an outflow opening, while at the inflow opening and the outflow opening fastening means are provided for fastening a supply or discharge tube, respectively, wherein the fastening means are quick-change couplings, a respective quick-change coupling having a coupled condition and an uncoupled condition, while in the quick-change coupling a shut-off valve is provided which, in the coupled condition, assumes an open position and thus allows gas to pass and which, in an uncoupled condition, assumes a closed position and thus does not allow gas to pass,

wherein each quick-change coupling comprises a male part, which is provided with a clamp fitting for connecting to at least one of the supply tube and the discharge tube, and a female part through which a bore extends, which forms the fluid communication between the supply or discharge tube, respectively, and the inflow opening or outflow opening, respectively, of the filter housing, while, with the male part and the female part in coupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the coupled condition and with the male part and the female part in uncoupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the uncoupled condition

32. (New) The in-line filter according to claim 31, the filtering material being configured to remove water, oxygen and hydrocarbons from a gas flow, while the filtering material does not contain alkali metals or alkaline earth metals.

33. (New) An in-line filter provided with a substantially elongated filter housing in which filtering material is included, the filter housing being provided on a first end with an inflow opening and on a second, opposite end with an outflow opening, while at the inflow opening and the outflow opening fastening means are provided for fastening a supply or discharge tube, respectively, wherein the fastening means are quick-change couplings, a respective quick-change coupling having a coupled condition and an uncoupled condition, while in the quick-change coupling a shut-off valve is provided which, in the coupled condition, assumes an open position and thus allows gas to pass and which, in an uncoupled condition, assumes a closed position and thus does not allow gas to pass,

wherein each quick-change coupling comprises a male part and a female part through which a bore extends, which forms the fluid communication between the supply or discharge tube, respectively and the inflow opening or outflow opening respectively, of the filter housing, while, with the male part and the female part in coupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the coupled condition and with the male part and the female part in uncoupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the uncoupled condition,

wherein at each quick-change coupling, the shut-off valve that is biased in a closed position by a spring is included in the bore in the male part, and

wherein the shut-off valve comprises a valve body and a valve stem, the valve body being arranged for cooperation with a valve seat in the bore of the male part, the valve

stem being provided with a collar against which the spring rests with a first end, while another end of the spring rests against a supporting surface provided in the male part, as a constriction is provided in the bore, while, when the male part is placed in the female part, with an end facing away from the valve body, the valve stem meets a stop in the female part such that movement against the spring force of the spring is effected.

34. (New) The in-line filter according to claim 33, the filtering material being configured to remove water, oxygen and hydrocarbons from a gas flow, while the filtering material does not contain alkali metals or alkaline earth metals.

35. (New) An in-line filter provided with a substantially elongated filter housing in which filtering material is included, the filter housing being provided on a first end with an inflow opening and on a second, opposite end with an outflow opening, while at the inflow opening and the outflow opening fastening means are provided for fastening a supply or discharge tube, respectively, wherein the fastening means are quick-change couplings, a respective quick-change coupling having a coupled condition and an uncoupled condition, while in the quick-change coupling a shut-off valve is provided which, in the coupled condition, assumes an open position and thus allows gas to pass and which, in an uncoupled condition, assumes a closed position and thus does not allow gas to pass,

wherein each quick-change coupling comprises a male part and a female part through which a bore extends, which

forms the fluid communication between the supply or discharge tube, respectively and the inflow opening or outflow opening respectively, of the filter housing, while, with the male part and the female part in coupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the coupled condition and with the male part and the female part in uncoupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the uncoupled condition,

and, with the aid of screw thread, the male part can be connected to the female part,

wherein screw thread on the male part is provided on a fastening ring rotatably connected to the male part of such that only the fastening ring needs to be turned for fastening the male part in the female part and that therefore the remaining parts of the male part need not be rotated.

36. (New) The in-line filter according to claim 35, the filtering material being configured to remove water, oxygen and hydrocarbons from a gas flow, while the filtering material does not contain alkali metals or alkaline earth metals.

37. (New) An in-line filter provided with a substantially elongated filter housing in which filtering material is included, the filter housing being provided on a first end with an inflow opening and on a second, opposite end with an outflow opening, while at the inflow opening and the outflow opening fastening means are provided for fastening a supply or discharge tube, respectively, wherein the fastening means are quick-change couplings, a respective

quick-change coupling having a coupled condition and an uncoupled condition, while in the quick-change coupling a shut-off valve is provided which, in the coupled condition, assumes an open position and thus allows gas to pass and which, in an uncoupled condition, assumes a closed position and thus does not allow gas to pass,

wherein each quick-change coupling comprises a male part and a female part through which a bore extends, which forms the fluid communication between the supply or discharge tube, respectively and the inflow opening or outflow opening respectively, of the filter housing, while, with the male part and the female part in coupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the coupled condition and with the male part and the female part in uncoupled condition, the quick-change coupling is in the uncoupled condition,

wherein the connection between the female part and the filter housing is formed by a detachable connection, and

wherein the connection is formed by a clamp joint, to which end the female part is provided with a body, a clamping plate which can be connected to the body with the aid of fastening bolts and with a flexible clamping ring with a diameter that fits the outer circumference of the filter housing.

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38. (New) The in-line filter according to claim 37, the filtering material being configured to remove water, oxygen and hydrocarbons from a gas flow, while the filtering material does not contain alkali metals or alkaline earth metals.